

Amendments to the specification:

On page 1, after the title, please insert the following new paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE

The invention described and claimed hereinbelow is also described in PCT/EP 2005/053297, filed July 11, 2005 and DE 102004045539.2, filed September 21, 2004. This German Patent Application, whose subject matter is incorporated here by reference, provides the basis for a claim of priority of invention under 35 U.S.C. 119 (a)-(d).

On page 1, line 5, please amend the heading as follows:

~~Prior Art~~ Background of the Invention

On page 1, please amend the first paragraph as follows:

The invention is based on a base plate for a power scroll saw ~~as generically defined by the preamble to claim 1.~~

On page 2, line 20, please amend the heading as follows:

~~Advantages~~ Summary of the Invention

On page 2, please amend the last paragraph as follows:

The base plate of the invention for a power scroll saw, ~~as defined by the characteristics of claim 1,~~ has the advantage that because the guide device for

the saw blade is integrated with the base plate of the power scroll saw, not only is a space-saving accommodation of the guide device possible, but there is also a retrofitting option for older power scroll saws that are not yet equipped with a guide device. All that has to be done is to replace the base plates, and the power scroll saw provided with the new base plate produces just as good cutting results as new power scroll saws that are available on the market.

On page 3, please delete the first paragraph in its entirety.

On page 4, line 3, please amend the heading as follows:

Brief Description of the Drawings Drawing

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 4-5 as follows:

The power scroll saw 10, shown in perspective and schematically in Fig. 1, has a saw housing 11, in which an electric motor with a gear is located, for driving a lifting rod 12 in an upward- and downward-oriented reciprocating motion. A saw blade 13, which has a sawtoothed strip 131 and a saw blade spine 132 facing away from the strip, is releasably fastened with its fastening shaft to the lifting rod 12. A base plate 14 is secured to the housing 11 and has a through opening 15 for the saw blade 13. The base plate 14 serves to place the power scroll saw 10 on a workpiece and to guide the power scroll saw 10 during the sawing operation. With the spine 132 of the saw blade, the saw blade 13 is braced on a support roller 16, which can additionally impart a pendulum motion,

which can be imposed as needed, to the saw blade 13. The support roller 16 is received in a support holder 47, which is fixed in the housing 11. For switching the electric motor on and off, a pushbutton 18 is provided, which is located on the underside of a handle 19 shaped out of the housing 11. Since the saw blade tip is loose, in the sawing operation the tip is typically deflected, resulting in a defective straight cut or a laterally obliquely extending cut in the workpiece. This effect is especially pronounced when thick material is to be cut and often requires a postmachining operation.

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 5-6 as follows:

To overcome this disadvantage, the base plate 14 in Fig. 1 is replaced by a base plate 20, shown in perspective from the top in Fig. 2, which can be accomplished by simply replacing the base plate 14 in the housing 11. The base plate 20 shown in Fig. 2 has an integrated guide device 21, with two guide elements 22, 23, which protrude into ~~a~~ the through opening 15 of the guide device 21 for the saw blade 13 and which guide and brace the saw blade 13 virtually without play on sides, facing away from one another, of the saw blade 13 and thus prevent a lateral deflection of the saw blade 13. For accommodating the guide device 21, the base plate 20 is composed of a bottom plate 24, with a surrounding frame 241, and a flat work plate 25. The guide device 21 is located between the bottom plate 24 and the work plate 25, and the work plate 25 is inserted into the frame of the bottom plate 24 and secured therein. The guide device 21 has a pusher mechanism 26, which comprises a T-shaped pusher 27, with a crossbar 271 and

a middle bar 272 and two slide rods 28, 29, pivotably connected, spaced apart from one another, to the crossbar 271 of the pusher 27. The guide elements 22, 23 are embodied as flat disk segments 30, 31, which are pivotably supported on the bottom plate 24 or the work plate 25 at the through opening 15 on diametrically opposite sides of the base plate 20, each about a pivot axis oriented perpendicular to the base plate 20. The bearing points of the disk segments 30, 31 are marked 32 and 33 in Figs. 3 and 4. The slide rod 28 is pivotably connected at a spacing from the bearing point 32 of the disk segment 30, and the slide rod 31 ~~29~~ is pivotably connected at a spacing from the bearing point 33 of the disk segment 29. A retaining block 34 is rigidly connected to the middle bar 272 of the T-shaped pusher 27. For that purpose, the retaining block 34 has two pegs 35, for instance, which in form-locking fashion engage two holes 44 in the middle bar 272. The retaining block 34 is displaceably guided in a switch housing 37 in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the base plate 20 and is part of a locking unit 36, with which the pusher 27 can be locked in its displacement position at the time. The retaining block 34 has a recess 38, in which a clamping piece 39 is inserted in form-locking fashion in such a way that its wedge face points away from the retaining block 34 and forms a run up ~~runup~~ ramp 40 for a clamping wedge 41, likewise guided longitudinally displaceably in the switch housing 37. The clamping wedge 41 is connected to an adjusting button 42 and is capable of being braced between the run up ~~runup~~ ramp 40 on the retaining block 34 and a housing wall 371 of the switch housing 37.

On page 6, please amend the paragraph contained in lines 18-27 as follows:

Between the clamping wedge 41 and the switch housing 37, there is a compression spring, not shown here, which is tensioned ~~tensed~~ when the adjusting button 42 is pulled out, to the left in terms of Figs. 2 and 3, and generates a restoring force for the clamping wedge 41. As a result, after the adjusting button 42 is released, the clamping wedge 41 is pushed onto the run up ~~runup~~ ramp 40 in every position of the retaining block 34 and becomes clamped between the switch housing 37 and the clamping piece 39, so that the retaining block 34 and thus the pusher 27 are fixed nondisplaceably on the switch housing 37. The switch housing 37, like the pusher mechanism 26, is retained between the bottom plate 24 and the work plate 25.

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 6-7 as follows:

For inserting a saw blade 13, the spring-supported adjusting button 42, which is accessible on the base plate 20, must first be pulled out of the bottom plate 24. As a result, the contact forces between the clamping wedge 41 and the retaining block 34 are overcome. The retaining block 34 can now be grasped; for this purpose, the bottom plate 24 has a recess 43 (Fig. 2) in the region of the switch housing 37. If the retaining block 34 is displaced to the left in Figs. 2 and 3, then because of the attendant displacement of the pusher 27 via the slide rods 28, 29, the two disk segments 30, 31 are pivoted out of the through opening 15, as can be seen in Figs. 2 and 3. If the adjusting button 42 is now released again, then

the retaining block 34 is locked in that position. The through opening 15 in the base plate 20 is uncovered, and a saw blade 13 can be introduced through the through opening 15 into the lifting rod 12 and clamped.

On page 7, please amend the paragraph contained in lines 13-23 as follows:

Once the saw blade 13 has been clamped, the adjusting button 42 is pulled out of the bottom plate 24 again, so that the retaining block 34 is again released. Now via the retaining block 34, the pusher 27 is displaced to the right in Figs. 2 and 3 so far that the disk segments 30, 31, pivoting outward again as a result of the slide rods 28 and 29, have pressed themselves more or less without play against the sides, facing away from one another, of the saw blade 13. In this position of the retaining block 34, the adjusting button 42 is released, and because of the restoring spring (not shown), the clamping wedge 41 becomes wedged on the run up ~~runup~~ ramp 40 of the retaining block 34 and locks the retaining block in that position. Thus the disk segments 30, 31 are also fixed for laterally guiding the saw blade 13.